

Message Text

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R 211650Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9685

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LSIBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 2609

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IT, CG, MX, RH

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN CONCERN FOR MERCENARY RECRUITMENT IN ITALY

1. ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE, LOMBUME YAM MUJWAN KALLYMAZI, TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR LODGE'S ASSISTANT, ILLING, MORNING FEB. 20 TO ASK IF HE COULD SEE HIM BRIEFLY ON RATHER URGENT MATTER. AT MEETING IN HIS OFFICE SAME AFTERNOON, AMBASSADOR KALLYMAZI TOLD ILLING THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED REQUEST FROM KINSHASA TO INVESTIGATE STORIES THAT MERCENARIES WERE BEING SERIOUSLY RECRUITED IN ITALY FOR MOZAMBIQUE, RHODESIA AND POSSIBLY ALSO ANGOLA. RECRUITING ACTIVITIES ALLEGEDLY CENTER IN GENOA AND ARE BEING PAID FOR MAINLY BY PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE WHO OPPOSE PLANS FOR IMMINENT INDEPENDENCE. ACCORDING TO KALLYMAZI, HIS GOVERNMENT EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT ANY MERCENARIES IN THESE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WILL POSE SERIOUS THREAT FOR ZAIRE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. ILLING TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING WHATSOEVER ON THIS STORY, THAT HE WOULD CHECK WITH OUR EMBASSY TO ITALY, AND REPORT BACK TO THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD HE FIND OUT ANYTHING OF INTEREST.

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2. A SUBSEQUENT EMBASSY CHECK WITH PIERO RACHELE, MFA OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFFAIRS, REVEAED THAT ALLEGATIONS OF MERCENARIES DEPARTING FROM THE PORT OF GENOA FOR MOZAMBIQUE SURFACED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS LAST NOVEMBER. AFTER A THOROUGH CHECK BY THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, THE MFA ISSUED A FORMAL DENIAL OF THESE ALLEGATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO, THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE APPROACHED THE ITALIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN LOURENCO MARQUES CONCERNING A REPORT THAT A GROUP OF MERCENARIES WOULD BE EMBARKING FROM AN ITALIAN AIRPORT ON A CHARTER FLIGHT TO MOZAMBIQUE. AN INVESTIGATION BY THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES REVEAED THT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE TO THE REPORT AND THE PORTUGUESE WERE SO NOTIFIED.

3. COMMENT: ZAIRE EMBASSY TO ITALY HAS SO FAR NOT APPROACHED EMBASSY AND WE PUZZLED WHY KALLYMAZI, WHO RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR HOLY SEE, MADE APPROACH THROUGH AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE. VOLPE

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